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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/027,418	12/19/2001	Himanshu Patel	018489-002510US	2779
20350	7590	06/29/2004	EXAMINER	
TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER EIGHTH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834			PANTUCK, BRADFORD C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3731	

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/027,418

Applicant(s)

PATEL ET AL.

Examiner

Bradford C Pantuck

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on April 26, 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 9-13, 24-39, 41-48, and 61-73 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 24-31 and 61 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 9-13, 32-39 and 41-48 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 62 and 69-73 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 63-68 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12/19/2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/30/2003.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 62 and 69-73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,966,604 to Reiss in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,022,362 to Lee et al. Reiss discloses a catheter having a rotational cutter 22 and a collection chamber (the hollow chamber inside of tube 32 or tube 10). The cutting members are at first stored and then later exposed through the window. Note that a window need not be planar. The cylindrical opening between tube 10 and tube 32 is a window. Reiss does not explicitly disclose moving the whole catheter assembly, including the cutter through the body lumen to cut plaque, but it would seem obvious from Figure 1 to move the catheter in such a way. In fact, Lee discloses a catheter for debulking a body lumen and explains that one can extend a catheter and a rotatable cutter (the whole catheter/cutter assembly is rotated) distally inside of a body lumen in order to remove plaque from the inside of the lumen [Column 20 line 67 to Column 21 line 15] quickly and easily. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to extend the whole catheter system of

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Reiss (as shown in Fig. 1) distally, while rotating the cutter, in order to ablate all of the plaque 18 at the surgical site, as taught by Lee.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-6, 9-13, 32-39, and 41-48 are allowed.
3. Claims 63-68 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 6,443,966 B1 to Shiu

U.S. Patent No. 4,966,604 to Reiss

U.S. Patent No. 4,986,807 to Farr

U.S. Patent No. 5,643,298 to Nordgren et al.

U.S. Patent No. 5,154,724 to Andrews et al.

U.S. Patent No. 5,282,484 to Reger

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bradford C Pantuck whose telephone number is (703) 305-8621. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shaver or McDermott can be reached on (703) 308-0858. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BCP

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June 15, 2004



DAVID O. REIP
PRIMARY EXAMINER